



December 1, 2009

P. Marc LaFrance
US DOE Technology Development Manager
United States Department of Energy Office of Building Technology
1J-018, EE-2J
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Dear Mr. LaFrance,

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is pleased to support DOE's initiative to make available volume purchases of R-5 Windows and Low-e Storm Windows. We understand that the project's purpose is to increase the availability and facilitate wider market adoption of highly insulating, energy-efficient windows.

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Chicago, Illinois, is a collaborative network advancing energy efficiency in 13 Midwest states through programs, policy initiatives, education and training (www.mwalliance.org). MEEA was created in 2000 as a response to tremendous potential to raise the level of energy efficiency in the Midwest and the need for greater regional coordination in and between states and the diverse organizations concerned with energy efficiency. Over the past nine years, MEEA has played a critical role in the Midwest by working to educate states, utilities, and municipalities to include energy efficiency in their energy goals and policy decisions.

Several of MEEA's policy and program efforts revolve around building codes and buildings, both residential and commercial, and looking at them as systems. Windows play a critical component in the building shell and have significant potential to achieve energy savings but typically are not incorporated into energy efficiency program portfolios as windows, to date, have not been deemed cost-effective. However, it is our hopes that through technology improvements such as seeing the R-value of windows increase to a value of 5 as well as through efforts such as volume purchases, will drive energy savings up and costs down, respectively, and may allow for windows to become part of an energy efficiency program portfolio.

We applaud the Department of Energy's initiative to create a market for emerging promising technologies that will have immediate benefits for American families as well as for our nation's energy security and emission-reduction strategy.

Sincerely,

Wendy B. Jaehn
Executive Director
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

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